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Montana State Board of Health

SPECIAL BULLETIN NO. 7

Laws Passed at the 1917 Session of the Legislature,
Pertaining to Public Health.

APRIL 10th, 1917

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In this Bulletin we publish the laws that were passed by the 1917 legislature, which pertain to Public Health.

The rules and regulations governing the work of School, County and Public Health nurses, authorized under the law creating the Child Welfare Division, were formally passed at a meeting of the State Board of Health held on April the 5th.

The regulations provided for in House Bill No. 233 have not yet been formulated, but this will be done at an early date.

HOUSE BILL NO. 193.

“An Act to Amend Section 1564, the Revised Codes of 1907, as the same appears After Amendment by Chapter 66, of the Session Laws of the Twelfth Legislative Assembly, Relating to the Polution of Water Supply.”

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana:

Section 1. That Section 1564 of the Revised Codes of 1907, as the same appears after amendment by Chapter 66, the Session Laws of the Twelfth Legislative Assembly, be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

“Section 1564. That no sewerage, drainage, refuse or polluting matter, of such kind and amount as either of itself or in connection with other matter, will corrupt, pollute or impair the quality of the water of any spring, pond, lake or stream used as a source of water or ice supply by a city, town or federal, state or county institution or water or ice company for domestic use, or render it injurious to health, and no human excrement shall be discharged into any such stream, spring, lake, pond or stream unless such sewerage, drainage, refuse or polluting water shall at the discretion of the State Board of Health have been purified, so as to render it harmless in such a manner and under such conditions and restrictions as the State Board of Health may direct.”

Section 2. All Acts and parts of Acts in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This Act shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Approved February 15, 1917.

S. V. Stewart.

HOUSE BILL NO. 233.

“An Act Giving to the State Board of Health Power to Require the Analysis of Waters Furnished and Sold to the Public, and to Provide Rules and Regulations for said Analysis, and for the Collection of Samples of Water, and to Provide Funds to Cover the Cost Involved and to prescribe Penalties for the Violation of said Rules and Regulations.”

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana:

Section 1. That the State Board of Health shall make and publish in the monthly bulletin of that Board, rules and regulations for the collection of samples and analysis of water either natural or treated, furnished by municipalities, corporations, companies, or individuals to the public and shall fix the fees for such service rendered under the rules and regulations to cover the cost of the service.

Section 2. That the fees collected by the State Board of Health under this Act shall be turned over to the State Treasurer, who shall place them in the State Board of Health Maintenance Fund and as much as is necessary of this fund shall be used for the State Board of Health water and sewerage laboratory, and the State Auditor shall draw his warrant for claims against this fund after such claims have been approved by the State Board of Examiners, provided, however, that this fund shall not be expended except after due appropriation.

Section 3. That every corporation, railway, common carrier company, or individual that shall fail to comply with the regulations prescribed by the State Board of Health under this Act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be fined not less than fifty (\$50.00) dollars nor more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars.

Section 4. All Acts and parts of Acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 5. This Act shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Approved February 27, 1917.

S. V. Stewart,
Governor.

HOUSE BILL NO. 184.

“An Act to Regulate and Govern the Sanitary Conditions Under Which Wall Paper, or Substitute Wall Covering Shall be Placed on the Walls of Rooms in Tenement Houses, or Other Houses Owned or Maintained for Rent, and to Make a Violation of Any of the Provisions of this Act a Misdemeanor.”

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana:

Section 1. That whenever the paper or substitute wall covering on the ceiling or walls of a room in any dwelling, tenement or apartment house, or house owned or maintained for rental purposes, has become loosened so as to be in danger of collecting and retaining dust, germs, vermin or filth, the same shall be removed, the walls and ceilings thoroughly cleaned before new wall paper or substitute wall covering shall be put thereon.

Section 2. That no wall paper or substitute wall covering shall be placed upon the walls or ceiling of any room where there has been a case of contagious or infectious disease until all wall paper and substitute wall covering thereon has been entirely removed, and the walls and ceilings thoroughly cleansed, oil painted walls and ceilings excepted

Section 3. The County Board of Health in each county of this State shall have power to examine into the enforcement of this Act in any City, town or elsewhere within their respective county. Provided, that in cities or towns where a Board of Health is established, then such City Board of Health shall have such power to examine into the enforcement of this Act within the boundaries of such city or town.

Section 4. That any person or persons who violate any of the provisions of this Act, or who shall cause any person or persons to violate any section of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

Section 5. That all Acts and parts of Acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 6. This Act shall be in full force and effect on and after June 1st, 1917.

Approved February 28, 1917.

S. V. Stewart.

HOUSE BILL NO. 250.

“An Act Requiring the Publication in Official County Papers of the Lists of Adulterated and Misbranded Foods, Beverages, Candies, Drugs and Other Preparations and Products as Reported by the State Board of Health.”

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana:

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the State Board of Health to furnish to the clerk of each county in the State a certified list of the adulterated and misbranded foods, and products entering into the preparation of foods, beverages, candies, drugs, and all other products and preparations under the jurisdiction of said Board of Health, as found by the analysis and investigation of said Board. Said list shall show the brand and name of the article, the manufacturer or jobber, and the reason for classing the same as illegal, together with any necessary comments thereon. The county clerk of each county, where said misbranded food is found, shall cause the said list to be printed in the official papers of such county. Such publication shall be made not more than four times each year and shall be paid for by such county at the rate allowed by law for publishing the proceedings of the board of county commissioners. Provided, that whenever the Board of Health or their assistants shall discover any food, beverages, candies, drugs or other products or preparations under the jurisdiction of said Board to be adulterated or misbranded, the said Board of Health shall immediately notify the party responsible for placing the same upon the market and said party shall have ten days in which to show cause why the results of said investigation or analysis should not be published.

Section 2. All Acts and parts of Acts in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Approved February 27, 1917.

(Signed) S. V. Stewart,
Governor.

HOUSE BILL NO. 223.

“An Act to Create a Child Welfare Division to be Under the Direct Supervision of the State Board of Health, Prescribing its Duties and Powers and Providing for its Maintenance.”

Be It Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana:

Section 1. That a Child Welfare Division be, and the same is hereby created, which shall be under the direct supervision of the State Board of Health.

Section 2. The duties of this Division shall be to make and enforce regulations; to carry on a campaign of public health education and to take all possible steps for the better protection of the health of the children of the State.

Section 3. School Boards may employ in their discretion regularly qualified nurses, duly registered in the State of Montana, to act as school nurses. In sparsely settled communities, two or more School Boards may unite and employ a school nurse, the salary of such nurse being paid pro rata according to the assessed valuation in the school districts.

Section 4. County Commissioners are hereby authorized, at such time as they deem necessary, to employ regularly qualified nurses, to be known as County Nurses, for duties under the Child Welfare Division.

Section 5. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Secretary of the State Board of Health, as soon as possible after the passage of this Act, shall meet and formulate rules and regulations governing the work of school, county and public health nurses, which rules and regulations, when regularly passed by the State Board of Health, shall invest the said State Board of Health with full power of supervision and regulation of said school and county and public health nurses.

Section 6. The State Board of Health, through its Child Welfare Division, shall prepare and distribute to the school, county and public health nurses all necessary report blanks.

Section 7. The Secretary of the State Board of Health, subject to the approval of said Board, shall employ such officers as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 8. Nothing in this Act shall be construed or operate so as to interfere in any way with the exercise of the child's or parent's religious belief, as to the examination for, or in the treatment of, diseases; provided, that quarantine regulations relating to contagious or infectious diseases are not infringed upon.

Section 9. All Acts and parts of Acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved March 3, 1917.

S. V. Stewart.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE WORK OF SCHOOL NURSES.

Reg. 1. As soon as a school nurse is appointed by any district, she must notify in writing the Director of the Child Welfare Division of the State Board of Health of her name and address.

Reg. 2 The School nurse shall be under the direct supervision of the Superintendent of school or schools where she is employed, and shall furnish the Superintendent with such reports as he or she may direct.

Reg. 3. It shall be the duty of the school nurse to make an examination of the children in the school or schools where she is employed and to notify the parents or guardians of the children of the physical defects and diseases from which the children appear to be suffering, and she shall call upon such parents or guardians and explain to them the nature of the defects or diseases from which the children appear to be suffering and in a tactful way advise that their family physician be consulted. The nurse must be careful not to advise the services of any one physician to the exclusion of the other physicians.

Reg. 4. **Quarantine Regulations.** For infectious or contagious diseases, see General Quarantine Regulations No. 39.

Reg. 5. On notification by the Superintendent or teachers of the absence from school of any child without a known cause, the school nurse, shall, as soon as possible, visit the home of such child, and if the child is found sick and gives symptoms of having a contagious disease, the nurse shall immediately notify the local health officer.

Reg. 6. The school nurse shall notify the local Board of Health of any grossly insanitary condition in the community which she may find, and failing to have such condition remedied by the local authorities, she shall notify the State Board of Health.

Reg. 7. The school nurse shall make a monthly report to the Child Welfare Division to the State Board of Health on blanks furnished by that division.

RULES GOVERNING COUNTY AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES.

1. Public Health nurses employed by city or county, philanthropic or industrial organizations shall be registered nurses of Montana; and on receiving appointment to such positions shall notify the State Board of Health of said appointment giving full name and address.

2. Those employed by towns or cities shall make home to home visits, giving actual bedside care, when necessary, and giving instruction in simple nursing service, hygiene and sanitation.

(Calls must not exceed an hour in duration, unless absolutely necessary. However, in the observance of this rule the nurse is allowed discretionary power.)

3. The nurse responds to every call but is not allowed to continue on a case unless a doctor is in attendance; except in cases of chronic patients, when the nurse follows original instructions of doctor.

4. In their work for doctors, nurses are required to adhere to the etiquette of their profession and are not allowed to prescribe in any case.

(However, when out of communication with doctors, emergencies must be met.)

5. The nurse must feel her responsibility in the sanitary conditions of the city, and report violations to the proper authorities. She must teach everywhere the relation between disease and insanitation.

6. The nurse should learn the agencies of her community and co-operate with proper authorities to improve the living conditions of her people. In cases of poverty, unemployment, overwork, bad housing, underfeeding and such conditions, she can assist by cooperating with church, charity and fraternal organizations.

7. Neglected and ill-treated children should be reported to the nearest deputy of Child and Animal Protection Bureau.

8. In outbreaks of contagious disease, (a) the nurse makes house to house investigations, to find early and missed cases.

(b) The nurse inspects and reports observance of quarantine. She instructs as to what constitute quarantine, proper disinfection of bed linen and clothing, of human excreta, and in good, general nursing care.

(c) The nurse must wear cap and gown and would suggest that she also wear rubber gloves to handle patient. She should use proper disinfection of nasal passages and mouth after calls.

(d) The nurse is deputy of local health officer and makes her daily reports to local Board of Health and monthly reports to State Board of Health on blanks furnished by the Child Welfare Division.

9. County nurses may at the discretion of the County Commissioners be required to perform the duties of the school nurse in one or more of the school districts of the county.

10. In order to secure uniformity of reports, the standard visiting nurse record cards should be used by all city or county nurses.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

Under authority given by Section 1477, of the Revised Codes of Montana, quarantine regulation No. 39, is amended to read as follows:

Reg. Teachers Must Send Suspicious Cases Home. Whenever any teacher has reason to suspect that any child under his or her supervision is suffering from or has been exposed to any contagious or infectious disease, he or she shall immediately send the child home and shall not permit such child to again enter the school without presenting a certificate from a legally qualified physician and surgeon stating that such child is not infected with or suffering from any contagious or infectious disease.

The school teachers, school nurses, school physicians or health officers shall make any necessary examination of children attending school, which may be required to determine the presence of infectious or contagious disease, or carriers of infectious or contagious diseases.

